

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/516,972

Examiner

LEE D. WILSON

Applicant(s)

OBERLI ET AL.

Art Unit

3727

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/21/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7 and 9-12.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 3/10/2010.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other Communication Via the internet and Authorization.

/LEE D WILSON/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3727

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Howard G. Shimola on 3/10/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. The following claims have been amended and complete list has been provided:

List of claims

1. (currently amended) A pig for installing a cable in a conduit, wherein ~~it~~ said pig comprises a body and a seal intended to follow the internal surface of the conduit and arranged to make circumferentially continuous pressure sealing contact therewith, the seal having a V-shaped cross-section with a radially outer side of the V forming a lip including a v-shaped recess within said v-shaped cross section, the body comprising a radially elastic relatively thin wall tubular part on which the seal is mounted, and a radially resilient support part fixed to or integral with the tubular part, being radially inwardly bounded by the thin wall tubular part and having an outer diameter larger than a diameter of a main length of the

tubular part and extending radially outward of a center of the V of the seal such that ~~it~~ said thin wall tubular part axially supports the seal wherein said seal has radially extending grooves and prevents the lip from reversing when subjected to relatively high pressure, the support part having a guide surface arranged to guide the pig in the conduit, the outer diameter of the guide surface being slightly less than the maximum diameter of the seal, so that the support part is mechanically resiliently deformed by the internal surface of the conduit operating through the guide surface and, in turn, radially deforms the tubular part when the pig passes through deformed parts of the conduit.

2. (previously presented) A pig according to Claim 1, wherein the support part is in the form of teeth extending radially in the tubular part, and comprising an axial support of the seal.

3. (previously presented) A pig according to Claim 1, wherein the support part is formed integrally with the tubular part.

4. (previously presented) A pig according to Claim 3, wherein it comprises at least two bodies and seals.

5. (previously presented) A pig according to Claim 4, wherein the bodies are essentially identical and mounted axially in tandem.

6. (previously presented) A pig according to Claim 4, wherein the bodies are mounted axially in opposition, the seals being mounted at the opposite ends of the pig.

7. (previously presented) A pig according to Claim 4, wherein it comprises a pressure reducer in communication with an annular space between the seals, an internal cavity in the body upstream of the reducer and an external space upstream of the upstream seal through orifices in order to distribute the pressure between the two seals.

8. canceled

9. (previously presented) A pig according to Claim 7, wherein it also comprises a front guidance element comprising a conical or splayed front face forming a receptacle for housing a cable ferrule to be extracted from the conduit.

10. (previously presented) A pig according to Claim 9, wherein the pig comprises front and rear guidance elements, the guidance elements comprising elastic fingers inclined so as to give an essentially conical shape to the guidance elements.

11. (previously presented) A pig according to Claim 10, wherein the tubular part of the body has essentially the shape of a hollow cylinder having an open end and an end at least partially closed by a radial wall, the seal and the support part being disposed close to the open end.

12. (new) A pig according to claim 1, wherein said grooves form teeth which are extensions of side walls of said grooves.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - a. The present invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art of record because the pig comprises seal with a v-shaped recess and radially extending grooves attached to a thin wall body in combination with the other claimed limitations. The present claims as amended were searched and no prior art was found that read on the claims. The prior art considered is made of record. The Applicant's appeal brief filed on 1/30/2009 also states that the previous rejection was invalid which is true because the flexibility of steel verses the non rigid body does not suggest a combination as claimed by applicant. The claims have been amended to overcome 112 rejections as well as better define the invention. Placing the application in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEE D. WILSON whose telephone number is 571-272-4499. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MONICA CARTER can be reached on 571-272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/516,972
Art Unit: 3727

Page 7

/LEE D WILSON/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3727

March 10, 2010